Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~nucleic material~~retroviral RNA molecule, in an isolated or purified state, that is obtainable from tissue, comprising a nucleotide sequence which, in the form of DNA, is selected from the group consisting of ~~sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 15, their complementary sequences,~~SEQ ID NO: 11 and sequences that exhibit for every sequence of 100 contiguous monomers at least 70% homology with ~~said sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 15, respectively~~SEQ ID NO: 11.

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~nucleic material~~retroviral RNA molecule, in an isolated or purified state, that is obtainable from tissue, comprising a nucleotide sequence, encoding any polypeptide exhibiting, for every contiguous sequence of at least 30 amino acids, at least 80% identity with a peptide sequence encoded by at least a functional part of ~~a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 15 and their complementary sequences~~ SEQ ID NO: 11.

3-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A nucleic material~~ The molecule according to ~~claim 1~~claim 2, ~~comprising at least one~~ wherein the functional part of ~~nucleotide sequence encoding~~ SEQ ID NO: 11 encodes at least one retroviral protein.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A nucleic material~~ The molecule according to ~~claim 1~~claim 5, comprising at least one regulatory nucleotide sequence.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~nucleic~~ probe for ~~the~~ detection of ~~a nucleic material~~the molecule according to claim 1, wherein ~~said nucleic~~ the probe hybridizes under

highly stringent conditions with the nucleotide sequence of the ~~nucleic material~~ molecule according to claim 1 or with any derived specific amplification product thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The probe according to claim 8, comprising a label.

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~nucleic~~ primer for ~~the~~ amplification ~~by polymerization of an RNA or of a DNA~~ of the molecule according to claim 1, comprising a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under highly stringent conditions with the nucleotide sequence of the ~~nucleic material~~ molecule according to claim 1 or with any derived specific amplification product thereof.

11-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~nucleic~~ probe according to claim 8, wherein ~~said~~ the probe contains at least 6 monomers.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~nucleic~~ probe according to claim 13, wherein ~~said~~ the probe contains no more than 100 monomers.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~nucleic~~ probe according to claim 13, wherein ~~said~~ the probe contains at least 6 contiguous monomers of a ~~sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1-15 and their~~ complementary ~~sequences~~sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~nucleic~~ probe according to claim 8, wherein ~~said~~ the probe has at least 70% homology with a ~~sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1-15 and their~~ complementary ~~sequences~~sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~nucleic~~ probe according to claim 16, wherein ~~said~~ the probe has at least 90% homology with a ~~sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1-15 and their~~ complementary ~~sequences~~sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11.

18-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic composition comprising ~~a nucleic material~~ the molecule according to claim 1.

21. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method of diagnosing an autoimmune disease, a pathology associated with an autoimmune disease, a pathological pregnancy, or an unsuccessful pregnancy, ~~said~~ the method comprising:

obtaining a biological sample;

contacting ~~said~~ the biological sample with a molecular marker comprising ~~a nucleic material~~ the molecule according to claim 1; and

detecting ~~for said~~ the molecular marker.

22. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method of diagnosing susceptibility to an autoimmune disease or a pathology associated with an autoimmune disease, a risk of a pathological pregnancy, or a risk of an unsuccessful pregnancy, ~~said~~ the method comprising:

obtaining a biological sample;

contacting ~~said~~ the biological sample with ~~a chromosomal~~ an RNA marker comprising ~~a nucleic material~~ the molecule according to claim 1; and

detecting ~~for said chromosomal~~ the RNA marker.

23. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method of detecting a gene associated with susceptibility to an autoimmune disease or a pathology associated with an autoimmune disease, a risk of a pathological pregnancy, or a risk of an unsuccessful pregnancy, ~~said~~ the method comprising:

obtaining a biological sample;

contacting ~~said~~ the biological sample with ~~a proximity~~ an RNA marker comprising ~~a nucleic material~~ the molecule according to claim 1; and

detecting ~~for said proximity~~ the RNA marker.

24-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The ~~nucleic material~~ molecule according to ~~claim 4~~claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the nucleotide sequence comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of ~~the sequences of~~ SEQ ID NOs: 7, 8 and 9.

31-35. (Cancelled)

36. (New) The molecule according to claim 2, wherein the nucleotide sequence comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 7, 8 and 9.

37. (New) The molecule according to claim 1, wherein the sequences that exhibit homology with SEQ ID NO: 11 exhibit for every sequence of 100 contiguous monomers at least 80% homology with SEQ ID NO: 11.

38. (New) The molecule according to claim 1, wherein the sequences that exhibit homology with SEQ ID NO: 11 exhibit for every sequence of 100 contiguous monomers at least 90% homology with SEQ ID NO: 11.